

***What Is Claimed Is:***

1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a polynucleotide having a nucleotide sequence at least 95% identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of:
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- (a) a polynucleotide fragment of SEQ ID NO:X or a polynucleotide fragment of the cDNA sequence included in ATCC Deposit No:Z, which is hybridizable to SEQ ID NO:X;
  - (b) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide fragment of SEQ ID NO:Y or a polypeptide fragment encoded by the cDNA sequence included in ATCC Deposit No:Z, which is hybridizable to SEQ ID NO:X;
  - 10 (c) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide domain of SEQ ID NO:Y or a polypeptide domain encoded by the cDNA sequence included in ATCC Deposit No:Z, which is hybridizable to SEQ ID NO:X;
  - 15 (d) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide epitope of SEQ ID NO:Y or a polypeptide epitope encoded by the cDNA sequence included in ATCC Deposit No:Z, which is hybridizable to SEQ ID NO:X;
  - (e) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:Y or the cDNA sequence included in ATCC Deposit No:Z, which is hybridizable to SEQ ID NO:X, having biological activity;
  - 20 (f) a polynucleotide which is a variant of SEQ ID NO:X;
  - (g) a polynucleotide which is an allelic variant of SEQ ID NO:X;
  - (h) a polynucleotide which encodes a species homologue of the SEQ ID NO:Y;
  - 25 (i) a polynucleotide capable of hybridizing under stringent conditions to any one of the polynucleotides specified in (a)-(h), wherein said polynucleotide does not hybridize under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence of only A residues or of only T residues.

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5            3.        The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the polynucleotide fragment comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding the sequence identified as SEQ ID NO:Y or the polypeptide encoded by the cDNA sequence included in ATCC Deposit No:Z, which is hybridizable to SEQ ID NO:X.

15            5.        The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 2, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises sequential nucleotide deletions from either the C-terminus or the N-terminus.

7. A recombinant vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

8. A method of making a recombinant host cell comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

9. A recombinant host cell produced by the method of claim 8.

10. The recombinant host cell of claim 9 comprising vector sequences.

11. An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a polypeptide fragment of SEQ ID NO:Y or the encoded sequence included in ATCC Deposit No:Z;

5 (b) a polypeptide fragment of SEQ ID NO:Y or the encoded sequence included in ATCC Deposit No:Z, having biological activity;

(c) a polypeptide domain of SEQ ID NO:Y or the encoded sequence included in ATCC Deposit No:Z;

10 (d) a polypeptide epitope of SEQ ID NO:Y or the encoded sequence included in ATCC Deposit No:Z;

(e) a secreted form of SEQ ID NO:Y or the encoded sequence included in ATCC Deposit No:Z;

(f) a full length protein of SEQ ID NO:Y or the encoded sequence included in ATCC Deposit No:Z;

15 (g) a variant of SEQ ID NO:Y;

(h) an allelic variant of SEQ ID NO:Y; or

(i) a species homologue of the SEQ ID NO:Y.

20 12. The isolated polypeptide of claim 11, wherein the secreted form or the full length protein comprises sequential amino acid deletions from either the C-terminus or the N-terminus.

13. An isolated antibody that binds specifically to the isolated polypeptide of claim 11.

25 14. A recombinant host cell that expresses the isolated polypeptide of claim 11.

15. A method of making an isolated polypeptide comprising:

30 (a) culturing the recombinant host cell of claim 14 under conditions such that said polypeptide is expressed; and

(b) recovering said polypeptide.

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16. The polypeptide produced by claim 15.

17. A method for preventing, treating, or ameliorating a medical condition, comprising administering to a mammalian subject a therapeutically effective amount of the polypeptide of claim 11 or the polynucleotide of claim 1.

18. A method of diagnosing a pathological condition or a susceptibility to a pathological condition in a subject comprising:

(a) determining the presence or absence of a mutation in the polynucleotide of claim 1; and

(b) diagnosing a pathological condition or a susceptibility to a pathological condition based on the presence or absence of said mutation.

19. A method of diagnosing a pathological condition or a susceptibility to a pathological condition in a subject comprising:

(a) determining the presence or amount of expression of the polypeptide of claim 11 in a biological sample; and

(b) diagnosing a pathological condition or a susceptibility to a pathological condition based on the presence or amount of expression of the polypeptide.

20. A method for identifying a binding partner to the polypeptide of claim 11 comprising:

(a) contacting the polypeptide of claim 11 with a binding partner; and

(b) determining whether the binding partner effects an activity of the polypeptide.

21. The gene corresponding to the cDNA sequence of SEQ ID NO:Y.

22. A method of identifying an activity in a biological assay, wherein the method comprises:

(a) expressing SEQ ID NO:X in a cell;

(b) isolating the supernatant;

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- (c) detecting an activity in a biological assay; and
- (d) identifying the protein in the supernatant having the activity.

23. The product produced by the method of claim 20.

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